



Reid-Robertsons
of Straloch.



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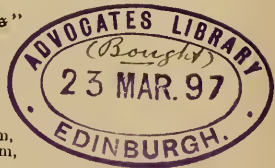
THE BARONS
REID-ROBERTSON
OF STRALOCH

BY THE
REV. JAMES ROBERTSON
WITH APPENDIX FROM OTHER SOURCES

“*Virtutis gloria merces*”

Fultum et tenacem propositi virum,
Non civium ardor, prava jubentium,
Non vultus instantis tyranni,
Mente quatit solida.

Hor. L. 3, Ode 3.



BLAIRGOWRIE :
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PREFATORY NOTE.



THE following pages contain a brief record of an ancient Perthshire family now extinct. They are substantially a print of a MS. written in the year 1728, by the Rev. James Robertson, who was minister of the parishes of Glenmuick and Glenlair from 1699 to 1748, to whom reference is made at p. 29 and app. p. 63.) He was third son of Baron John, eighth of that name. The rev. gentleman concludes his narrative with the words *Succedat alter*. It is much to be regretted that, so far as can be ascertained, no one succeeded him to complete the history of the family between the date of this Baron John's death, in 1727, and the time of his great grandson, General John Reid, the last Baron of the line.

The Rev. Mr Robertson's manuscript, recently printed in the *Blairgowrie Advertiser*, was supplied by Mr M'Gregor, Folda, from a copy belonging to Mr M'Combie, Easter Skene; Major P. Chalmers, Blairgowrie, revising the proofs and comparing them with a copy in his possession. These gentlemen, the Rev. John Chalmers, Stirling, and other descendants or connections of the family, have rendered valuable assistance towards this publication of the manuscript in book form. The late Dr Small, the learned Librarian of Edinburgh University, a descendant of the Baron's, supplied, through Major Chalmers, several dates and corrections, and would have done more

had he lived. It is believed that the history in this form may be of much interest to the numerous families with which the family of the Barons Reid-Robertson of Straloch was connected by marriage; to the people in the district in which they once resided, as well as to others who take an interest in antiquarian matters.

It may be stated that the title Baron employed here is not the same as that in our modern peerage. It is really an old title now extinct so far as common use is concerned. An old Scotch Baron was simply a landed proprietor with special rights. Under the article "Barony" in Chambers' Encyclopædia it is said that "in the Scotch laws a right of Barony is a right in relation to lands which have been created or at least confirmed in Crown Charters making the grant *in liberam baroniam* (into a free barony), as it is called: and by the Crown alone could such a right be conferred. It involved a civil and criminal jurisdiction, to which, in theory, all the inhabitants of the barony lands were amenable." This statement is illustrated by what is said of the Barons Reid in the following account. It is remarkable that the last male heir, practically the last Baron, though not bearing that designation, should be the most famous. General Reid, as the appendix relates, founded the Music Chair in Edinburgh University. This fact alone is a vindication for keeping the family in remembrance. It may be said that the name and influence of the Barons Reid are perpetuated in the generous gift of their last male representative. The shrill sound of the bagpipe among the hills of Straloch has passed into the deep swell of the organ in the Music Classroom of our Metropolitan University.

ADDITIONAL NOTE.



The Robertsons of Straloch had an ancestor called Alex. "Rua," or the Red, from the colour of his hair. This name, when he became a Baron, was altered to Reid. A descendant of this Alexander named Robert (?) was a very great warrior. He did so much service for Scotland during the reign of the King James I. that his whole lands were erected into a free Barony, dated 1457.—[See Vol. I., page 101, Skene's Sketches of Scot. Hist.]

It is further stated by the historian Skene, that this same Robert Reid arrested the murderers of James (Walter, Earl of Athole, and Robert Graham), and then refused any reward excepting that Straloch with other lands given by James II. of Scotland *should be for ever his own and erected into a free Barony.*

The Arms of his family were also at the same time augmented, and he was to bear (upon an escutcheon of pretence) a man in chains, with motto "Virtutis gloria merces." Several large estates were added to Straloch and a Charter given by the Crown in 1457.

"They have been connected in marriages in the Royal families both in Scotland and England, and among many noble families both in Scotland and England, which is well documented, both by the poets and English historians."—[*Hist. Robertsons, and Poems of Alex. Robertson of Strowan.*]



THE FAMILY OF STRALOCH IN STRATHARDLE.



IT is reported that when the Norwegians conquered the Western Isles of Scotland, many of the inhabitants, being unwilling to submit to a barbarous foreign yoke, left their isles and came to the continent of Scotland; amongst whom, it is said, one Alex. M'Doneill, descended from the principal family of that name, came to Strathardle, and obtained a possession in the braes thereof. One of his posterity, as the report goes, and as carried down by tradition and firmly believed in that country, called John Roy (Reid), the son of

John Roy, being attending the king at a hunting in the forest of Cromley, betwixt Athole and Braemar, happened to discover a conspiracy intended against the life of the king, and, being filled with zeal for the safety of his sovereign and abhorrence of such detestable villainy, had not patience to endure the conspirators, but fell a quarrelling with some of them, and lost his life in the cause. This slaughter happened near the top of a mountain at the head of Failar, which, from his death, is called Carn Mhic-in-Roy or Aldanour to this day. Upon this, inquiry was made, the murderers were apprehended, the conspiracy discovered, and due punishment inflicted upon the traitors.

The king called for the defunct's son, then in the camp, and having condoled his father's death, told him that, seeing it was in his defence he had lost his life, he would take care of his family, and accordingly said to the boy that he would bestow upon him as his heritage, as much ground as a falcon-hawk would fly over without alighting. The hawk was brought, and let fly from the top of Cam-chory—where the camp or Court then was—called Beallach-na-learn, and flew eastward until he was above the Dour-Dow, betwixt Inverchrosky and Kirk-michael; but before his pursuers reached him,

he was come back and found on a little black hillock in Easter Straloch called Tulloch-Dow, where the march for that time was fixed.

I have often heard that such was the delight that people took at that time in hunting and pasturage, that the boy and his friends wished that the falcon had rather taken his flight westward through the forest than eastward through the country.

The king, being willing to gratify the boy, asked him whether he would choose to hold the lands given him, of him or of the family of Athole; to which (it is said) he foolishly answered, that His Majesty would be at too great a distance from him when he might happen to want his help; and therefore chose to hold of the family of Athole. The young man was immediately put in possession according to the forms then in use.

The first write yet found out granted to the family, is a charter granted by King James II. to Mathilda Duncanson, lawful daughter of Thomas Duncanson of Struan, on the lands in Straloch called Crannach, Dalcharnich, Cerrow, and Tom-in-turc, in liferent to her, and in fee to her sons John and Alexander, the sons of Alexander, the son of Patrick of Lude, and is a confirmation of a former charter, and registered

in the Publick Registers under the Parliament House next immediately before the first charter granted to the Laird of Struan. The charter is dated at Edinburgh, the 4th day of August 1451. Some of the greatest men in the kingdom subscribe as witnesses to it, viz.:—William, Bp. of Glasgow; William, Lord Crichton, Chancellor; Alexander, Earl of Crawford; William, Lord Sommerville; Patrick, Lord Glams; David Murray of Tullibardine, knight; and Sir Simon Glendinning of that Ilk. This John Reid of Straloch—whom for distinction we shall call John II., omitting all that went before him of whom we have no certain vouchers—was about 1460 married to — Stewart, lawful daughter of the Baron of Kincarden in Strathspey; and being killed in his own house by a shot through the entry door, he left his estate to his eldest son, Robert.

It may be stated that John, the son of Mathilda, died without issue male, leaving one daughter, who was married to her cousin, a son of Struan, who, because he married the heiress of the family, was bound to keep the name of Reid, as did all that succeeded him till the Baron Liath, on his marriage with M'Harlich's daughter, was made, or advised, to add—*alias* Robertson.

Robert Reid of Straloch was in or about the year 1483 married to — Rattray, daughter to Rattray of that Ilk. By her he had his eldest son John, and his 2nd son, who (it is said) went south and purchased the estate of Ballochmyle, which his posterity possess to this day.

John III., of that name, and eldest son to Robert Reid of Straloch, was in or about the year 1504 married to — Gordon, daughter to the laird of Abergeldy, and had by her John Reid, his first-born, and Alexander Reid, his 2nd son, afterwards merchant in Dundee. Being killed at Dunkeld by (the Laird) Stewart of Fincastle, his death was immediately revenged on the said Stewart by Fergusone of Balichainduidh [Balichaindreich?] He left his estate to his son.

John IV., Reid *alias* Robertson of Straloch, who married Elizabeth Maxwell, lawful daughter to the Laird of Tillen. It is reported of him that, immediately after his father's death, his cousin by the mother's side, the Earl of Huntly, sent for him and kept him during his minority, and took care of his education. He had sons by the said Elizabeth Maxwell—his eldest son John, who succeeded him, and his 2nd son, Alexander Reid *alias* Robertson, who afterwards purchased Dunny [Dounie in Strath-

ardle], whose son was Walter MacAlister Mhica-Bharain of Dunny, of whom descended a numerous family.

There is extant a charter granted by John, Earl of Atholl, to him, viz., John Reid *alias* Robertson of Straloch and Elizabeth Maxwell, his spouse, on the lands of Dalcharnich, dated Feby. 14th, 1534, and a sasine passed thereupon 1539, as also a charter by Thomas Scott of Pitgormy, to John Reid of Straloch and Elizabeth Maxwell, his spouse, of the lands of Easter Invercroskie, dated Feby. 14th, 1554.

In or about the year 1560, John V. Reid or Robertson of Straloch, commonly called Baron Liath (*i.e.*, grey-headed), was married to Marjory Farlisson *alias* Robertson, lawful daughter to Charles Robertson of Clune, ancestor to the present laird (Robertson) of Lude, and Beatrix Gardyn, his spouse. By her he had John, his eldest son, Leonard, his 2nd, and Alexander, his 3rd son. He gave his eldest daughter, — Reid, in marriage to Robert Farquharson of Invercauld; his 2nd to — Rattray, Laird of Dalrulzean; the 3d to — Spalding, Laird of Ashantully. His son Leonard purchased the lands of Bleaton, and his grandson presently possesseth that estate. His 3rd son purchased Wester Straloch, of whom the present possessor

is the great-grandchild.

The said John (V.) had one daughter, Janet, married to David Fenton of Wester Ogle. I have seen a charter granted to her on the said lands of Wester Ogle, of date the — day of — 1596, and of sasine following thereupon of date the same year. He (John) had another daughter, — —, married to Sylvester Rattray* of Nether Persey, minister of the gospel at Kirkmichael.

I have seen a charter granted by John, Earl of Athole, to him [John V.] and Marjory Robertson or Farlisone, his spouse, upon the lands of —, of date — 1561; and a precept of sasine, granted by Thomas Scott of Pitgormy, to the said lands, to John Reid or Robertson of Straloch, on the lands of —, in the year 1562. I find that he lived at least to the year 1597, by a charter granted by him, with consent of Marjory Robertson or Farlison, his spouse, in favour of his eldest son, John Reid or Robertson, and Margaret Ruthven, his spouse, dated at Dundee, Aug. 15th, 1592, before witnesses—Archibald Campbell of Over Persey;

* This Sylvester Rattray of Persey, minister of Kirkmichael, is not mentioned in Scott's *Fasti Eccl.* among the ministers of that parish, of which, it is probable, he did not continue long in charge. He died at an old age in 1686 or beginning of 1687. He was eldest son of Sylvester Rattray of Persey, minister of Rattray, who was eldest son of David Rattray of Craighall and his spouse, Isobell Ramsay, daughter of — Ramsay of Bamf. —[Persey Charters.]

John Farquharson of Invercauld; Alexander Robertson or Reid, his brother-german, burgess of Dundee; and Alexander Ruthven, jr. of Freeland.

He was a wise, frugal, peaceable, prudent gentleman, took care of his family, and kept good correspondence with his neighbours. He possessed the lands of Easter Straloch, Wester Kindrogan, Inverchrosky, and Lair.

Marjory, his spouse, is said to have been a gentlewoman of courage and resolution. About that time the Earl of Athole began to bring in question the right of the family to the Camichory, though particularly disposed to them as the grazing^s of Wester Kindrogan; and it is reported of this lady, that as oft as his lordship would cause build huts or *sheals* on the said corry, she would go with a staff in her hand and cause them to be pulled down again. In her old age was she nicknamed Cailleach-na-Luirg, *i.e.*, the old woman with the staff.

His son, John VI., commonly called from his low stature, Baron Cutach, was married to Margaret Ruthven, lawful daughter to Alexander Ruthven, elder, Laird of Freeland (now Lord Ruthven, nearest heir to the Earl of Gowrie.) She did bear him 4 sons—Alexander, John, James, Leonard, besides daughters. John,

his 2nd son, left two sons—Leonard (who died without male issue), and John, who yet lives and has several sons and daughters. The 3rd son, James, had a son James, who purchased Cray [in Glenshee], whose grandchild now possesseth it. I did when a boy see Leonard, a very old man. He died without issue that I know of, except one natural daughter (whom I knew), called Grisell, and a son called John. He—the said John VI.—had a daughter called Grisell married to George Farquharson of Rohailey [in Glenericht], mother to the yet living Paul Farquharson of Rohailey. She had a daughter named ——— married to Patrick Small of Dirnanean.

I have seen a charter granted to him by John, Earl of Athole, on the lands of Inverchrosky, in 1586, and a charter by the same Earl to him on the lands of Straloch, in 1587, and a sasine taken by him on the lands of Wester Kindrogan and on the lands of Lair in 1595. I have seen a contract of feu passed betwixt David Maxwell of Tellon and Hugo Maxwell, his son, on the one part, and John Robertson or Reid of Straloch and Margaret Ruthven, his spouse, on the other part, anent the lands of Cray, disposed to them in feu and holden of the said Tellon, of date Sept. 18th, 1595.

There is also a charter granted by John Robertson or Reid, with consent of Marjory Robertson, his spouse, in favour of John Robertson or Reid, his son, and Margaret Ruthven, his spouse, dated at Dundee, as above, written in the year 1592; and I find this was near the Baron Liath's death, for within 4 years I find a charter granted by John, Earl of Athole, to John Reid of Straloch, wherein he is called son to umquhile John Reid of Straloch. I find by several papers that this old gentleman always subscribed himself John Reid.

John VI., called Cutach, was of a genteel, generous disposition, loved to live high, and to make a figure in the world. Went with a piper and a retinue attending him, and so fond was he of that attendance, that I have heard it said that he commonly went to church on Lord's Days with his piper playing before him. This, if true, was neither grave nor religious.

The Protestant religion was beginning to take footing in Strathardle, and the Baron being not only a Protestant but the principal man in the country, it was necessary for him to go to the kirk in a warlike manner, to protect the minister, Mr Sylvester Rattray of Persey, his brother-in-law, and also to prevent or quell tumults occasioned by Rattray of Dal-

rulzean and Spalding of Ashintillie.

He was famous for suppressing robbers. It's storied of him, that one time he himself, with his piper only in his company, turned a hership or prey of black cattle, driven by 18 men well armed, by the following stratagem:—Having come within sight of the thieves, he caused the piper to stay behind a rising ground and play on his pipes; and he had the courage to march forward alone till he was within shot of the robbers, and then stood upon a little eminence, and cried with a loud voice—"The thieves are here! Haste up the people immediately! Let a good party cast about and run before them, and let the body of the people come up straight, and they are all our own." How soon the thieves heard this bold call, and withal heard the piper play, they left their prey, all their baggage, and many of their weapons, and took them to their heels, leaving all to the Baron and his piper.

He never used to go single. He had two other men with him besides the piper, and called them to move from place to place, as if to call in a body of people, crying—"Barons, come forward! the thieves are here!" Then the piper played a march, which, when the thieves heard, they fled, for the Baron's name was a

terror to all such people, as he seldom went any distance without men in arms, which was much in use for men of any note in those troublesome times. Going to Glenferdate some time after, as he was passing Tom-in-Turc, one of his servants, who waited on his cattle, informed him that some Highland robbers, to the number of fifteen or sixteen, had committed a great deal of abuse and robbery in and about his sheals and bothies. He hastened up to that place with a number of his tenants, whom he levied as he went forward, and found the thieves eating and drinking his milk and cheese. He fell upon them; killed and buried them in a hollow place not far from the bothies, where some nettles grow to this day. This occasioned a byword, still remembered, which is—"There will be as much about it, as about eating Baron Reid's cheese."

On another occasion, some Highlanders came down and killed a gentleman in Glenshee—one M'Omie or M'Homie. The Baron caught two of them, and instantly caused them to be hanged on birch trees in the wood at Ennochdhu. Their graves are to be seen there to this day. Their names were Donald-na-Hogg and Finlay-na-Balior.

But if he raised the reputation of the family

by his genteel behaviour and generous actions, he depressed it as much by his profuseness, leaving a burden of debt on the family. The greatest burden was two life-rents, his mother and his relict.

Alexander II., holding a good part of their lands, would oblige them to marry early, and therefore in 1617, Alexander Reid *alias* Robertson, eldest son and heir to the last-mentioned John Reid of Straloch, was married to Marjory Grahame, lawful daughter to M'Homie, laird of Claypots, brother-g'erman to the Laird of Fintray in Angus. She brought him three sons—John, James, and Robert, and as many daughters—Isobell, Margaret, and Barbara. John, the eldest son, succeeded to him, of whom afterwards. James, his second son, a pleasant gentleman, purchased the lands of Ferniehirst, near to Eleyth [Alyth], in Angus, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander, after whom that little family was extinguished. The third son, Robert, was married, and lived honestly in Minoch, a possession belonging to his brother, the Baron. He had some daughters that were honestly married, and left only one son, James, who is now but in mean circumstances.

Straloch's eldest daughter, Isobell, was mar-

ried to Patrick Robertson of Dalcapon, a considerable house at that time in Athole. I find by the writs that he got 4000 merks of dowry with her, a good sum in those days, when money gave 10 per cent. interest. His family is extinguished, and that alliance lost. The family of Killechangre is come of her.

The second daughter, Margaret, was married to James Herring of Cally, and brought him four sons—James, David, Gilbert, and Alexander. James, the eldest, who succeeded his father to the estate of Cally, and died lately in a good old age, had the mortification to see his son and heir sell his whole estate, and by all probability that family is also fallen. Barbara, the youngest daughter, was first married to Farquharson of Fenancain, and brought him one son only, who succeeded to his father, and died soon after he married, leaving one daughter only, who is now wife to one — Stewart, in Lainchoill in Abernethy parish. Her tutor destroyed the estate, leaving her little or nothing. I find among the writs, Precept of *clare constat*, William, Earl Tullibarden (who succeeded to the Earl of Athole), granted to this Alexander Reid, *alias* Robertson of Straloch, to the lands of Straloch and Inverchrosky, and sasine thereupon of the date of — 1626, be-

sides other papers granted to him by other superiors.

This Alexander III. was a discreet, sober, peaceable gentleman, the most frugal and wisest that were in the family before him. Prudent and careful of his affairs ; diligent in attending to his husbandry ; took great delight in cattle, of which he had considerable herds, not only in his own possession, but laid out by way of *bowes* (as they call them) in the hands of such of his tenants as lived in Roums* proper for it. By these means, under God, he recovered the family when almost sunk under a great burden of debts that his father had laid it' under. I have been often told by old men that when he entered on the estate, it was so far burdened that all was in the hands of creditors and life-renters, except Minoch, wherein he dwelt. Being one day straitened for want of money, he spoke to one Fleming, who had a wadset on his Mains of Inverchrosky, to lend him some money. But the carle answered him reproachfully, saying—"Who will give you money? Where is your foundation of credit?" This insolent answer so far vexed him that he went and sold his cattle, made money off them, and paid Fleming, and freed his Mains, and came

* "Roum," a piece of land, or small farm.

and dwelt on it, and kept Minoch for grazing and fother to his beasts, making up his herds again, by buying here and there, after he had come to Inverchrosky. It is reported that in the winter he consulted an honest man that lived over against him in a place called Dalnaguilshich, where he might get fother to buy for his beasts. The other answered—"Baron, you are still buying victual; my advice to you is, either fit your barn to your byre, or your byre to your barn;" and he observed to him, that there was a field under his house called Press-an-droin, all overgrown with thorns, which, if freed of the thorns and well dressed, might keep him from buying. This advice had such an impression upon him, that from that day forth his thoughts ran much upon Press-an-droin. At length he convened his tenants, and invited his neighbours, and fell heartily to work, and in a short time rooted out the thorns and other shrubs that had encumbered that ground; and what of it could not be tilled he caused dig, and the ground did not disappoint his expectation, for we are told that it carried many folds to him for many years. This encouraged him to enlarge his Mains in other places, build an enclosure above his house, and to go on successfully, in many improvements. His care and conduct

and surprising success being observed in the neighbourhood, so far raised his reputation and advanced his credit that they cheerfully lent him money when he had use for it ; but this affluence of credit was not abused by him, for he never borrowed money except to pay an urgent debt, or to make an advantageous bargain, and still laid it out to the best advantage. There was a remarkable character, hitherto constantly due to this family, and particularly to this gentleman, they always made conscience of their word ; dealt honestly in their dealings with all men ; never wronged any man, nor studied to oppress their tenants in the least, or defraud their creditors ; but with a deal of plainness and ingenuity did justice to all men. This, under God, always supported their credit, even when the family was at its lowest pitch ; and I heartily wish that their successors may ever tread in the steps of their worthy ancestors in such laudable practices.

It is observed of this Alexander, that though he entered to his estate under great burdens and difficulties, and lived on it but 22 years, yet, by the blessing of God on his wise and prudent management during that short time, he not only paid all his debts and freed all his estate, but gained besides what handsomely

provided for his family and had £1000 besides at his death, wherewith he was to have purchased Telling's Superiority of the third part of the large parish of Kirkmichael, which was of considerable value before the feu duties were sold to the feuars; but his untimely death, which happened in 1636, spoiled all this project. Finding his death approaching, to prevent the falling of his son's ward and marriage (who was then in the sixteenth year of his age), suddenly clapt up a marriage for him, as shall presently be observed.

John VII. This worthy gentleman—Alexander II. being removed by death to the great loss of his family and regret of his neighbours and friends—was succeeded by his son John, seventh of that name. He was, shortly before his father's death, married (a little too early) in the 16th year of his age to Anna Robertson, lawful daughter of Robertson, laird of Lude, and of a daughter of Graham of Inchbraky. She conceived and brought forth his eldest son, John, in 1643, and afterwards a daughter named Margaret, who lived to a good old age, but was a weak woman. David Spalding, only brother-german to the Laird of Ashintully, came in suit of her, but her father would by no means consent to that match. However, there was

contracted underhand such a familiarity between them as was followed by runaway marriage. He could never be fully reconciled to them, even to the day of his death. When he had occasion to speak of his son-in-law, he commonly designated him by the title of Davy Rizzio or Segnior David. This David Spalding, who yet lives (a very old man), first purchased the lands of Whitehouse from his brother, and afterwards Morcloich. She brought him many children, of whom three only lived to be men and women—to wit, Charles, David, and Margaret. Charles Spalding of Morcloich, the eldest, is yet unmarried. David, the second son, has been married many years ago, and has children living in Whitehouse, Blacklunans, which his father disposed to him. Margaret Grisell was married to John Rattray of Borland, and has brought him sons and daughters—Thomas the eldest and John, his brother.

This John VII. was a genteel, handsome man, of a middle stature; slender, and of a fair complexion, inclined to be ruddy. He was of a generous, gentlemanly temper and behaviour, loved to have all things genteel about him; his house and gardens were kept clean and tight. He was too young when he entered on the stage of business, and had the disadvantage of living

in troublous times. The Parliaments of both kingdoms thought it needful to stand for religion and liberty against the encroachments of the Court and clergy, and he very early appeared on the parliamentary side. Therefore the Marquis of Montrose, on his march from the Highlands to Tippermuir, caused burn his dwelling-house, and ruin his tenants. And he suffered yet farther after the restoration of the Royal Family.

King Charles II., at his return, granted a general indemnity to all his English subjects, except such as had been accessory to the murder of his Royal Father, yet the Scots as one man both publickly and privately gave testimony against that unnatural regicide ; called home the son immediately after the English had murdered his father : crowned him at Scone, engaged their lives and fortunes for him, and fought in his behalf, till fields and streets were covered with their blood. Yet upon the Restoration, as being the weaker nation, and therefore nothing to fear from them, he gave them no indemnity, but left them to the mercy of his hungry, merciless favourites, and a debauched, mercenary, packed Parliament, who were obedient humble servants to the Earl of Middletown and other ministers of State. Hence it was that this drunken Par-

liament consented notoriously to the destruction of the Church, and yielded up our civil liberties ; giving in to the projects of the Court for carrying on an arbitrary government, and laid on exorbitant fines on all the families of any note in Scotland, except such as were members of that obsequious Parliament. When these fines came to be distributed amongst the favourites (the end for which they were imposed) the late Marquis of Athole got the fines laid on his own vassals, and the Baron Reid of Straloch was forced to compound with him for a good sum of money.

By these and other ways, the money his father left him was so far exhausted that it served only for the purchasing the Superiority of Blacklunans and Easter Bleaton ; but the Marquis of Athole, who was then in his pomp and laid no bounds to his covetousness, would not suffer him to enjoy it after he had bought it, but obliged him to dispense the said lands to him, giving him only an assignation to a wadset of 3000 merks his Lordship had on part of the lands of Coltilonie. Besides, the civil wars beginning in his youth, the commotions the country was under did not allow the people to use all the formalities required by law of vassals to their superiors, (it being a time that *inter arma*

dorment leges.) The Marquis of Athole intended a process of improbation and reduction against him upon pretence of non-entries, deficiencies in payment of feu-duties, &c., and on these and other such like pretences, exacted another round sum of him. Add to all this, that in his early youth he entered on a free estate, and learned to spend before he learned to spare, and in the year 1665 made an expensive second marriage. All these things put together brought him under a considerable burden, even such as would have endangered the family, if kind Providence had not provided a good and wise wife for his son; whose prudence, with her husband's honest, peaceable, and sober temper and behaviour, did in some measure relieve matters.

About the year 1662 he was left a widower by the death of his spouse, and was, after his son's marriage (of which afterwards), married to Christian Campbell daughter to the Laird of Glenlyon. She was a handsome young woman, genteelly educated, but he spent much more at the courting and at the marriage than he got by her. She lived to bring him one son, Alexander, and two daughters—Susanna and Katrine. Alexander and Katrine died in their youth; Susanna lived to be married in the year 1633 [probably 1683] to Charles

Robertson of Balnacaird. She was a beautiful young gentlewoman; yet was but ill-used by her husband. She died without issue.

After Christian Campbell's death, he was again unhappily married to Elizabeth Kinard, daughter of — Rattray of Dalrulzean, but he had no issue by her.

During his second widowhood, he begat a natural son called James. He after married a niece of the Laird of Rothiemurchus, by whom he has some daughters. He now lives at Enverey, and is but in bad circumstances.

In 1678 he was commanded to join the Marquis of Athole in marching with the Highland host under pretence to reform, but really to exasperate the honest people in the western shires of Scotland. There and then he had occasion to see and converse with his cadet—Reid of Ballochmyle.

In his contract with his son, he reserved to himself in liferent the Mainse, Miln, and six merk lands of Inverchrosky, and lived for many years on it to the day of his death.

He stood stoutly for the reputation of the family, particularly against the aspiring temper and encroaching designs of Andrew Spalding of Ashintully, who, in order to raise himself a fine go on, in the country, endeavoured to

discourage and undervalue the only family in the neighbourhood that had a right to compete with him. But this gentleman to his dying day would never yield the door to him, whom he looked on but as an upstart. He died in a good old age on the — day of June, 1704, in the 84th year of his age, having lived to see his children's children have children, and was honourably interred with his ancestors in the Kirk of Kirkmichael.

John VIII. of that name, was, as we observed before, born heir to the last-mentioned John Robertson *alias* Reid of Straloch, on the — 1643, and was, by a very kind Providence, very gracious to him and his children; on 9th July, 1663, contracted matrimonially to Magdalene Farquharson, youngest lawful daughter to Robert Farquharson of Invercauld, and shortly after was married to her in the house of Mirehouse in the Garioch, where Invercauld then lived. She was an excellent woman, endued with a great measure of wisdom, piety, and prudence beyond many, which afterwards under God, proved to be a great advantage to him and his family. She did within the compass of 13 years bring forth five sons and as many daughters:—Alexander, his eldest son and heir, John, James, Robert, and Thomas, Margaret,

Grizzel, Christian, Elizabeth, and Anna.

Alexander was on — December 1692 married to Margaret Farquharson, second daughter of Francis Farquharson of Finzean, who has brought him a pleasant family of children (of whom afterwards.)

John, the second son, born on — 1670, was in proper time sent to school, and afterwards taught writing and arithmetic to fit him to be a merchant, but after all choosed a country life, and was married to Janet Robertson, only daughter to Leonard Robertson, eldest son to John Robertson, second son to Baron Cutach above written. She did bear him sons and daughters, but none were spared except two daughters. The mother is dead, and he, partly by bad seasons, but mostly by foolish bargains, and dealing with bad debtors, has fallen out of business in his old age, and is in very low circumstances, (*ex omni lique ne fit mercurius.*)

James, the 3rd son [and Author of this account of the family], was born in Dalcharinnich upon the 15th day of November, 1672. He was early sent to school, and kept at it until, in November 1689, he was sent to the University of St. Andrews, where he studied Philosophy, and commenced Master of Arts in

1692, and after having studied Divinity in said University, he was ordained minister of the gospel at Invermuick, in Marshire, in March, 1699, where he yet lives. He was, in September 1704, married to Elizabeth Macintosh, lawful daughter to Donald Macintosh of Kelachy.

The 4th son, Robert, born at Dalcharinnich in 1674, was likewise kept at school, got academical learning, commenced Master of Arts with approbation, but loving a country life, he was soon after married to Grissel Robertson, eldest daughter of John Robertson of Bleaton, widow to Robert Macintosh of Dalmonzie, Glenshee, who has brought him two sons and two daughters. His eldest son, John, is married to Mary Farquharson, daughter of William Farquharson of Tomb, Glenshee, and labours a tack beside his father.

Robert, the second son, a hopeful youth, is lately ordained a minister of the gospel at Kirkmichael. The eldest daughter, —, is married to Alexander Small, of the family of Dirnanean; the youngest, —, is yet unmarried.

Thomas, the fifth son, was born at Cullalony in 1676, was kept at school, and got academical learning. He was a handsome, hope-

ful youth, but was in the year 1700 enticed by Lord Mungo Murray, son to the Marquis of Athole, to go along with him in the expedition to Darien in America, where he and many others of our friends and countrymen were lost.

Margaret, the eldest daughter, was born in Lair, in 1665, was well educated, and was a pious, grave young woman, but died in the flower of her youth.

Grissel died young. The only daughter that lived to be a woman was Christian, born in Dalcharinnich and afterwards married to George Rattray of Dalridlan [or Dalrulzean], who lived many years with her, and had full plenty of the necessaries of this life, and is lately dead. She bare to him Andrew, David, Alexander, William, and Henry. David and William are dead, and the other three are yet unmarried. They had one daughter, Katrine, married to Robert Robertson of Bleaton, who brought him sons and daughters.

This John VIII., Robertson *alias* Reid of Straloch, when married (as was said before), was put in feu of the whole estate, but in possession only of Lair and Cray. They lived for the first year with the father, then a

widower in Inverchrosky, and there his heir and successor was born. From thence they removed to Lair, where they lived about a year, and after flitted to Dalcharinnich in Straloch, where they lived for several years, and where several of their children were brought forth, as above observed. In 1675 they flitted to Cultalony, where they continued for a year and six months; and the father, being now a widower a second time, invited them to come and take his Mains of Inverchrosky, which they did in 1677, from whence they did not remove until death removed them. Here Elizabeth and Anna, who both died young, were born.

I observed above, that John VII. did not give to his son but Lair and Cray, amounting to about 600 merks of yearly rent, reserving the rest of the estate to himself in liferent, but after he was married to Christian Campbell, and found his debts to increase upon him and grow troublesome, he prevailed on his son to take the remainder of the estate (with the burden of the debts), except the six ploughs of Inverchrosky with the miln which he still reserved. Thus he was very early brought under a great burden, which he could not shun without endangering the ruin of the family.

He considered his father's temper and that he was now married to his second wife, who probably would have but little concern for the family, if she got herself and children provided for ; he therefore, trusting in God, took on him the management of all affairs, and left his father to enjoy himself and his liferent with peace and ease. He was a man of the meekest and most peaceable temper imaginable. I do not remember ever to have seen him angry, or out of temper, except any of his sons, while boys, would do anything out of the way, and were truly censurable, in that case he would whip them severely ; but otherwise he was of such a calm and sweet temper, that I dare not say that ever I saw him in any disorder or express himself with anything like wrath or vehemence. Yet he was a man of abundance of courage, boldness, and resolution when occasion offered, of which I shall give an instance or two.

It is true that, by reason of his lady's indisposition, he excused himself in 1678 from going upon the wicked expedition of the highland host sent to destroy the western shires ; nor did he think it good to go to Bothwell Bridge next year. Yet he could not shun going to Argyleshire in 1685, against the Earl of that

name. But though he obeyed in going, and saw great havoc done by his countrymen, in robbing and destroying the country, yet he took special care of his men, and suffered none of them to do any harm or carry anything home with them but lawful purchase. But what I cannot omit observing is the following passage; wherein he gave a remarkable testimony of his faithfulness and courage, and great zeal for the Reformed Religion and against Popery:—

In June 1689 the Viscount of Dundee was raising the Highland clans against King William, and to restore the late King James. He ordered Halliburton of Pitcur; Stewart of Ballechin; Fullerton of that Ilk; and some others of his friends, to take possession of the strong castle of Blair Athole, and keep garrison in it, to open a path for him and his army to descend to the country. They having done so, accordingly, King William commanded the late Duke of Athole, then Lord Murray, to raise his father's men and dislodge that people. The said Lord Murray accordingly raised all the fencible men in Athole and Strathardle, and laid seige to the Castle. He had no great guns to batter it, nor any other way to force it than by a blockade. His Lordship had his headquarters in the park above Blair, and commanded one

full company after another to guard the Castle gate that none might go out or in. About that time John Farquharson of Inverey was giving disturbance to the Government in the Braes of the shire of Aberdeen, and having entreated Dundee to reinforce him, he sent two or three hundred highlanders under the command of one M'Donald of Gallichoil to assist him, with orders to march the way of Blair Athole, and to endeavour to throw in 50 or 60 men into that Castle for the relief of the gentlemen that were in it. The Athole people were generally so much inclined to the Jacobite interest that Gallichoil and his people got close to the Castle walls before the Lord Murray heard anything of them. It happened Baron Reid of Straloch (of whom I am writing) to be that night with his men on the guard of the Castle, and was relieved but a few minutes before Gallichoil and his highlanders appeared to approach the Castle. But as the Baron was, with his men, marching up the green towards the camp, he observed the highlanders marching close to the Castle gate, and Balnagaird like to give way to them. Now, not being under any command for the time, and relieved from the guard, he (Baron Reid) might without censure march on, and have left the succeeding captain to dispute with the enemy.*

Yet, notwithstanding, a sense of honour and true regard to the Protestant religion, and regard for the reputation of his young superior, made him return in all haste and plant himself and his men at the Castle gate with their backs to the wall, and their faces to the enemy ; and with remarkable courage and resolution disputed the entry against triple their number without, and all that were within the house—his successor Balnagaird giving him no assistance. Thus he defended the gate in the utmost danger until Lord Murray and his troops came from the upper park for his relief, and chased away the highlanders. This, so eminent a piece of service, the late Duke could never forget, and the truth is, it was a remarkable service done to him. The family of Athole could not live without some post or pension from the Crown. The Marquis had King William's favour, and his son Lord Murray was now on his good behaviour, and was to be preferred or disgraced according to his conduct in this affair. And it is evident that had Gallichoil got into the Castle at this time, as certainly he had if the Baron had not made this noble stand, he had irrecoverably

* The author is in error here. It is a well-known principle of war, and practised from the most ancient times, that when a post is attacked after the guard or picket defending it has been relieved, on becoming aware of the attack, it should immediately return and assist in the defence. The Baron, therefore, only did his duty, and did it bravely and well.

lost the King's favour, and his honour and reputation had suffered extremely.

The other passage I shall mention, though it be not so remarkable as the former, yet it further certifieth his boldness and remarkable affection to the Revolution interest. In August 1699, after the Battle of Killiecrankie, the Highland army marched northward to the Duke of Gordon's country in order to recruit. But for the safety of their friends in Athole, and to keep open that pass, they left a strong garrison in Blair Castle. The governor sent frequent threatening orders to Strathardle for necessaries to the garrison, threatening military execution in case of refusal or delay, yet all the time nothing was sent. The garrison being at length provoked by the denial, ordered 400 of the Clan Alister, or rather Stewarts of Appin, who were marching to join the Highland army, to march the way of Strathardle, and chastise these Cameronians, as they were pleased to call them. They came accordingly, and fell a pillaging and plundering the brae of the country. The cry went to the Baron Reid to come to their relief, who upon sight sent fiery crosses through the parish to call all the fencible men together for the defence of the country; appointing them within

two hours to meet with their best clothes and arms at Tom-in-Turc. I was a few weeks before returned from the school of Dundee. Having there been used to hear the drums beat, and learned all the parts of that piece martial music, we got a drum, and I beat a gathering in Tom-in-turc, the place of rendezvous. How soon the highlanders heard the drum beat regularly, with a Highland piper, Angus M'Ruiman by name, they left off their pillaging and got to arms; and they marched on the south side of the Water of Fernaid, and we in rank and file on the north bank. They encamped that night on Stron Ernaig, and we in Loin-a-Voiran, watching one another all night. At length, finding they could gain nothing at our hands, they sent a deputation to treat with us, and agreed to depart upon getting a little viaticum to carry them to the next country. And thus, by the Baron's courage and conduct, the country was at this time defended from military execution, as they termed it. And the action was the more bold that Cannon with his victorious army was then come as far as Glenisla in his march to Dunkeld.

His spouse, Madelen Farquharson, was, as I observed, an excellent woman of admirable wisdom and conduct in managing not only

the affairs within doors, but of wonderful discretion in advising her husband in the management of his affairs, and in educating their children ; and from the 36th year of her age upward, she was visited with sore sickness and much tied to bed, yet even in these distressed circumstances she narrowly observed all the domestic affairs, and advised and directed her husband in the most difficult of his concerns. She had likewise acquired so much skill and practice in medicine, that poor people from all parts flocked to her to get relief by her advice.

She was a person of eminent and exemplary piety, and love of religion and religious persons, an utter enemy to vice and immorality, a hearty friend to and asserter of the truly reformed Christian religion ; against Popery, Prelacy, and all superstition.

I cannot forbear observing, that during her long and sore afflictions the Lord was pleased not only to support her by the comforts of His Spirit and Grace ; but was pleased for her encouragement, and the edification of her family, to grant her special marks of His favour, in revealing some things to her concerning herself and family, and even with regard to the Church of Christ, that were extraordinary.

I confess that dreams are commonly little to

be regarded, as being mostly the effects of vapours or the roving of imagination or fancy while the other powers are asleep ; yet it cannot be denied that the Lord did frequently of old—and sometimes of late—reveal His will to His people by dreams. I confess that things of this nature are not to be laid stress on until the event prove the truth of them ; yet some things are extraordinary, and I had not mentioned the following passages if I had not been confident of the truth of them, as being one of those to whom she made them known immediately after they happened.

In summer 1681, she was visited with so much sore and dangerous sickness that Dr Kinloch, her physician, gave her up for lost, telling her husband that it was to no purpose any more trouble with men of his trade—but rather to provide for her funeral. She likewise had the same sentence of death within herself ; but on that same night she was refreshed with some sleep, and dreamed that a reverend, discreet man, who had often appeared to her before in her sleep, came to her and asked her how she did. She answered—“ As it was, she was very ill and brought very low.” To which he answered—“ It is very true, and you and your friends think you are dying ; but yet, I tell you, that you may

yet live for fourteen years more ; but when your old disease returns, prepare yourself." She replied—"How shall I know that?" He answered—"You'll know it by this token, viz., that little Katy (meaning her sister-in-law) will die within nine months after her brother Sandy." Both of them were alive and in health at the time, and yet it is a matter of fact that Alexander within one-half year fell sick and died ; and she observed to her friends that the first part of her dream was come to pass. "Let us wait for the second part of it," said she. She did not wish for Katy's death (a beautiful sweet lassie), but yet she could not help her thoughts of her approaching death, and so it fell out that soon after Alexander her brother-in-law's death, Katrine fell ill of a disease of which she died within nine months after ; and it is as true—the lady lived full fourteen years after, to June 1695. In March that year, after my return from St. Andrews, I found her tied to her bed, as she had been for many years before, and therefore I did not look for any sudden change, but she said to me—"Jammie, I'll tell you news ; my warfare, glory to my God, will be shortly at an end ; before the middle of June next, I shall be with Christ." "That will be your great advantage, dear Mother," said I, "but our great loss. But

how know you that?" continued I. She answered—"You remember the dream I often told you of, wherein it was revealed to me that I might live fourteen years yet, but that when my old disease is returned again, to prepare myself. The fourteen years are out in June next, and besides my old disease is returned, and my God therefore warns me to prepare—welcome, welcome, thrice welcome be His will." "The Lord prepare you then, my dear mother," said I, "and give you to be thankful for such remarkable tokens of His special love." It fell out accordingly, for on the — day of June, 1695, she finished her course pleasantly, and died in the Lord.

About the beginning of November, 1685, some more than half-a-year after King James VII. had mounted the throne, she was very much concerned about the state of religion, and the fear of the growth of Popery under a Popish King. But one night she dreamed that Mr Francis Peirson, minister of the parish, an old Remonstrator, and John Robertson of Fowlis, tutor of Lude (who afterwards became Popish), and she, were standing together behind her own dwelling-house. That looking south-eastward they observed in the air a glorious star, very beautiful to behold, and while the minister and

she were delighted with the sight of it, to their surprise a cloud came and almost covered it from their sight; only the light and beams of it shone round the cloud. After the first cloud succeeded a second, and after the second a third; and then, as she thought, the clouds blew all away, and the star approached nearer to them, and appeared a glorious lamp in a golden candlestick. This would have been a remarkable dream, and easily understood of itself, but all the more so that it carried its interpretation along with it; for the dream yet went on; and she thought she spoke to the minister (the tutor not opening his mouth all the while) and said to him—"Mr Francis, this is a vision we have seen; that star you observed is the light of the Gospel, and the cloud you saw is Popery, which will darken the Gospel light for some time in Scotland. The three clouds are three years, wherein Popery will prevail; but as you observed that after the three clouds were over, the star came nearer to us than before, and shined more brightly—that signifies, that after the three years are over, the light of the Gospel is to shine more brightly in Scotland than it has done for many years backward; never more to be overshadowed with the cloud of Popery. Amen."

This remarkable dream she told us on the

morrow after she had it ; and when the Lord High Chancellor, Perth, and some other Peers became Popish, the penal laws against Popery were likely to be abrogated by the Parliament. A Jesuitical Academy erected in the Palace of Holyrood House, toleration granted by the King to hold public Popish meetings, and other wide steps were made to introduce anti-Christian idolatry. I said to her, "What is to become of your dream now?" She answered with some vehemency—"Will you have but some patience, and wait until the three years be past, and after that crop my ears if King James be not either dead or deposed?" I particularly remember that she often spoke of, and had a special eye to the Prince of Orange, as he who would probably be the instrument of our deliverance. It pleased the Lord to spare her to have the pleasure to see her dreams accomplished, and to enjoy the advantages of the late happy revolution for above six years.

I shall of many others but mention one passage more. In July 1689, the country—but more especially such persons as had a sincere love to religion and liberty, and feared the abominations of Popery and slavery—were mightily frightened with tidings that the Viscount of Dundee had raised a mighty army

among the highland clans to dethrone King William, and restore King James, and was on his march through Badenoch to invade Athole ; and by that way to make a descent on the low country, and was to burn and destroy all before him that would not join his army and take part with him. But the terror was increased when her husband had a letter from the said Viscount delivered to him, commanding him to be ready with all his fencible men in their best clothes and arms to join the King's forces (as he called them) at Blair Castle, against the 26th July curt., under the pains of military execution. The Baron and his friends and neighbours were in consternation, not knowing how to behave. He resolved not to join Dundee, be the event what it may, but was in great perplexity, minding that his father's whole bigging was burned by another Graham in 1644, and knew not but he might happen to undergo the same fate. He knew not where or how to dispose of his family and plenishing in a place of safety. While in this vexation, she that very night dreamed that she was standing on the green by west of her dwelling-house at Inverchrosky, and observed a terrible fiery dragon flying towards her from the west ; and that balls of fire flew from him round about ; and that some of them

fell at her feet. At which being extremely terrified, she thought that her old friend the reverend, grave man stood by her side and said to her :—“ You seem to be frightened at the sight of that fiery dragon ; but look yonder and see a chain at his foot.” ’Tis true, this dream did not carry its interpretation with it as the last did, yet she understood it to signify Dundee with his barbarous army, and was at little more fear about him ; but told us on the morrow that he would be suffered to do but little harm, and none to her ; that there was a chain at his foot ; and so it happened, for within a few days after, Dundee was slain in the Battle of Rincory [Killiecrankie], and his army was soon after dispersed, and she and her family got no harm. There was a chain at the dragon’s foot, and a kind and powerful Providence did hold the other end of it.

But to return to John VII. As was observed, partly by the troubles of the times, partly by oppression of great men, and mostly by his own careless temper, and expenses of a second marriage, he laid his son, of whom I am writing, under so great a burden of debt as no man except one of his sobriety, honesty, and application could have borne up under ; but he lived soberly and in perfect peace with all men, and

did justice to all he had dealings with ; spoke little but never dissembled. What he promised he laboured to the uttermost to perform ; and generally so true to his word that people would lay more stress on what he spake, than on other men's write. By this means his credit was so entire, that I never knew him to get a summons, or a charge of horning, nor were his bill protested, or his bond registrated that ever I heard of.

He was just and kind to his tenants, not laying new burdens on them, or doing as some now do, augmenting duties in proportion to the tenant's thriving, nor did he convert services and customs. He was led to these measures not only by the rules of justice, and a willingness to do as he would be done by, but even by the rules of prudence. He considered that an heritor's life and credit, under God, depended on his tenants. If they be well and able seasonably to pay their duties, the landlord will be sure of money at the term, and sooner if he have use for it. But if the tenants be poor, the master does not trust his credit to them ; he is vexed at the term for want of payment, and may be forced to borrow money at the term to pay urgent accounts, and annual rents ; and the duties that after come in in parcels go out as they come in,

and the borrowed money stands unpaid, and still debts increasing. He observed likewise, that it was folly to convert services and customs to money. Why? The silver duties are hereby augmented on the tenant to (perhaps) 20 p.c., and will be a weighty burden upon him, and oblige him to sell off his beasts, so many yearly, as will in a few years leave him nothing. He hinges in the head of his possession (as they speak) as long as he can, until he has wasted the Roum [farm] and ruined himself, and after all the master is a loser. For if he has a Mains to labour, he must hire and maintain (perhaps idle and roguish) servants, and buy and support horses to work the work the tenants had used to work to him. And seeing he cannot always attend them, they will probably consume more than they earn, and the Laird's house will be but ill provided for want of customs, &c., besides giving out money for what he spends in the house; and vexed to find himself disappointed of his rents at the term, and forced to the unpleasant work of stressing his tenants,—poor people, who as their little flocks decrease yearly, have the less dung to manure the ground; are still the less able to dress it, and by consequence it still carries the less, and so ruin in place of former affluence on both master and tenants.

It is a custom that prevails among most heritors in the highlands (though contrary to law) to take a *heriot* or best *aught* from the widow after the death of a tenant, but I never knew him (the Baron) to take any except when the tenant died in good case, and had no issue of his own body to enjoy what he left, and in that case it was commonly left to him in the defunct's will.

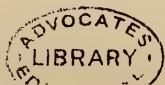
The method he took to keep his credit and support his numerous family was as follows:— Besides keeping exact tuches [accounts] with his creditors, he laboured the whole Mains of Inverchrosky for 15 years, paying 140 merks or thereby to his father yearly for it. He kept a good stock of choice cattle upon it, about 50 head of black cattle, and a proportionate number of sheep; a horse-plough for the *ebbest* or thin land, and a plough of strong oxen for the heavy deep soil; but seldom made use of the horse-plough. He took care to till deep, clean and harrow well; sowed the seed, mostly with his own hand. He was greive himself, took pleasure to keep his servants close at work. Having many beasts on the town, the land was well manured with hot dung, and carried so plentifully, that I have often seen the cornyard (which I think may be about thirty paces

square) as full of corn stacks as it could contain, and little waste in it except at the southwest corner. He took pleasure in making his hay, and took care to do it seasonably, that all might be gathered in before harvest, or the rains come on. For the sake of grass in summer and fother in winter he kept the Roum [farm] of Easter Achintepell in his own hand, and *taitthed* it with his beasts after they returned from the glens in July, and were feeding on the grass about the town. These leys, when so *taitthed*, carried abundance of corn, and much fother, which, together with his Mains, filled his barns and cornyard, and sufficiently fed his beasts in winter and spring, and kept him from buying. His hay fed his young beasts, especially his ewes in time of snow; and when the burns were so far frozen that the sheep could not conveniently get water to drink, he caused to lay troughs and large vessels before the cot doors, and fill them with water for the sheep to drink, throwing some hay on the top of it to entice them at first to do it.

By careful management, he not only maintained his family on the growth of his husbandry, but paid his servants' fees and his children's board at school by the profits of it; yea, at a pinch he could, and sometimes did, sell a num-

ber of cattle, and pay an urgent debt. Thus, though his rents did little more than pay his annual rents, yet he lived handsomely, kept a good house, entertained his friends cheerfully and plentifully, gave a liberal education to his children, and did his business so quietly, peaceably, and honestly, that one of his creditors scarcely ever knew of another ; none ever sought real or joint security for him, and few called for their sums. There was one thing particular in his circumstances, that he never was in possession of his whole estate, but was either a feuar or liferenter all his life.

When his eldest son married (as was said) in 1692, he gave him with the estate a considerable burden of debt, and it could not well be otherwise, considering what was before observed ; but then he behaved as a kind, good, sympathetic parent. For, considering that now a third family was to be raised on a small estate ; that his father was still living enjoying his liferent ; and that his son took all the burdens of the debts and provision of the other children upon him, he, for the support of the family, fixed on a double resolution—1st, Not to marry, though but in the 52nd year of his age when he became a widower, and in consequence thereof to content himself with a small liferent ; both of which resolutions



he kept to the day of his death.

As to his religious life, I confess I have little to say, before his good yoke-fellow's death, nor for some years after. There is one thing, that in the first or second year of his widowhood he begat a daughter in fornication ; but of this, as of all his other sins, I hope he afterwards repented after a godly sort. About 20 years before his death, the Lord having in great mercy and rich grace first opened the eyes and converted the heart of his eldest son, he was honoured to be in a great measure the happy instrument of his father's conversion. For, observing his son to become a serious seeker of God, after a long ramble, he also began to mind the sweet religious examples and advice of his dear wife, now with the Lord, and began to apply himself more closely and seriously to the duties of religion—as reading, prayer, punctual attendance on publick ordinance, and with serious attention to hear his son discourse on religious matters. Seeing the pastor of the parish was of the prelatical way, and not well reported of, he choose to go (though further off) to hear those of the Established Kirk, and frequented sacraments when administered in the neighbouring churches ; and his son and he, who then lived in one house, set up family worship

and performed services. When his son with his family returned to Culearn and lived there, yielding the chief residence to the grandson now married, he lodged with his grandson in Inverchrosky, and performed family worship in person to the day of his death.

He was of an ordinary stature, strong bound, well built, of a brown complexion, and a very healthy constitution. He lived in good health to a great age, having, as his father did, seen his children's children have children; and was spared to have the pleasure to see kind Providence plentifully providing for his family; which I heard him observe with thankfulness. He lived in peace, and died the death of the righteous. A gentle, easy fever carried him from this life to a better on the 24th Dec., 1727, having given satisfaction to his friends as to his faith and hope. After he had lived 32 years in wedlock and 32 in widowhood, he died, as his father had done before him, in the 84th year of his age.

“The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish when he sleeps in dust.”

FINIS.

Succedat alter.



A P P E N D I X.

—o—o—o—o—o—

GENERAL JOHN REID, the fifteenth and last of the Barons Robertson *alias* Reid, was the great-grandson of John VIII. It was the custom of the family, from the time of John II. Baron, to designate themselves,—the Baron by the name of Reid *alias* Robertson, the younger members of the family by the name of Robertson. In modern days they would all have taken the name of Reid-Robertson or Robertson-Reid. On joining the service he took the name of Reid, and discontinued the *alias* Robertson. But it does not appear that after his father's death he ever assumed the ancient family designation of Baron. He was born at Inverchrosky, Feby. 13th, 1721. He received his early education in Strathardle Parish School, and in Dundee. He afterwards studied in the University of Edinburgh. In 1745 he became a lieutenant in

Loudon's Highlanders, a regiment formed of 1250 men raised by authority granted to the Earl of Loudon, the officers' commissions dating from June, 1745. The regiment consisted of 12 companies, four of which were raised in Perthshire. Several of the officers and men joined the rebels. Three officers with their companies were taken prisoners at the battle of Gladsmuir. Three companies took part in the unfortunate affair of Drumossie Moor, where 1 officer and 6 men were killed, and 2 soldiers were wounded. In 1747, the regiment embarked for Flanders, and took an honourable part in the defence of Bergen-op-Zoom. The following, from the *Hague Gazette*, is an account of one of the many sorties made by the Highlanders :—"The Highlanders, who were posted in Fort Rouro, which covers the lines on Bergen-op-Zoom, made a sally, sword in hand, in which they were so successful as to destroy the enemy's grand battery, and to kill so many of their men that Count Lowendahl beat a parley in order to bury the dead. To this it was answered that had he attacked the place agreeably to the rules of war his demands would certainly have been granted ; but as he had begun the siege like an incendiary, by setting fire to the city with red-hot balls, a resolution had been taken neither to ask nor to

grant any suspension of arms." An account of the final assault, published by the same paper, says:—"Two battalions of the Scotch brigade have, as usual, done honour to their country, which is all we have to comfort us for the loss of such brave men, who, from 1450, are now reduced to 330 men—and those have valiantly brought their colours with them, which the grenadiers twice recovered from the midst of the French at the point of the bayonet. The Swiss have also suffered, while others took a more *speedy way to escape* danger." The brave conduct of the Scotch brigade is thus spoken of in a history of the siege:—"It appears that more than 300 of the Scotch brigade fought their way through the enemy, and that they had 19 officers killed and 18 wounded. Lieutenants Francis and Allan MacLean of the brigade were taken prisoners, and carried before General Lowendahl, who thus addressed them:—"Gentlemen, consider yourselves on parole. If all had conducted themselves as you and your brave corps have done, I would not now be master of Bergen-op-Zoom."

After the loss of Bergen-op-Zoom, Loudon's Highlanders joined the Duke of Cumberland's army, and at the peace of 1748 returned to Scotland, and were reduced at Perth in June of

same year. After the reduction of Loudon's Highlanders, Reid joined the Black Watch, whose number was newly changed from the 43rd to the 42nd, in which regiment he reached the rank of Major. He died at London, Feby. 6th, 1807, in the 86th year of his age—a General in the Army and Colonel of the 88th Regiment of Foot or Connaught Rangers.

General Reid had a fine taste for music, and was passionately fond of it, and was considered one of the best flute players of the age. When Major in the Black Watch he set the words of "The Garb of Old Gaul," written by Captain, afterwards Sir H. Erskine of Alva, Bart., to music. In a set of marches and minuets published in 1770, styled General Reid's minuets, and inscribed to the Right Honourable Catherine Murray, it is entitled "The Highland, or 42nd Regiment's March;" and it is a composition which has ever since been the Regimental March. He also published 6 solos for the German flute, or violin, with a thorough bass for the harpsichord, in which he styles himself "A member of the temple of Apollo." Being only Captain when he composed these, they are usually spoken of as Captain Reid's solos. In his will, dated at London, April 19th, 1803, he describes himself as "John Reid, Esq., General

in His Majesty's Army and Colonel of the 88th Regiment of Foot," and states that he was "last representative of an old family in Perthshire, which on my death will be extinct in the male line." He left £52,000 in the 3 per cents, subject to the liferent of his daughter, for the purpose of establishing a professorship of music in University of Edinburgh, where he was educated, the salary not to be less than £300 per annum. He directs in his will that annually on his birthday, the 13th February, there shall be a concert of music held, including a full military band, to commence with some pieces of his own composition, to show the style of music that prevailed about the middle of the 18th century, among the first of which is that of "The Garb of Old Gaul." The chair of music was founded in 1839, when nearly £80,000 became available for its endowment.

* * *

With regard to the music chair, the editor of "The Lyric Gems of Scotland" sarcastically, and with a good deal of truth, remarks:—"We are sorry to say that for all the good the Professorship has done for the cause of music in Scotland, the worthy General's money might as well have been thrown into the sea—we beg pardon,

there is an annual concert given on the 13th of February (General Reid's birthday), at which the majority of the performers are, of course, foreigners. So much for the cultivation of music in Scotland." Since Professor Sir Herbert Oakley, Bart., was appointed to the Chair things are differently managed, Sir Herbert having done much for the cause of high-class music in Scotland.

* * *

The considerable fortune (for that period) of £80,000 left by General Reid to found the Edinburgh Chair of Music was to a very large extent made up from the estate of his cousin-german, Major-General John Small, who died Governor of Guernsey in 1796, and, by his will, left to General Reid and his daughter, a valuable estate near Halifax, Nova Scotia, of between 4000 and 5000 acres, being "moved to this," as he stated in his will, "by gratitude—that virtue which, of all others, I am happy in feeling myself possessed of to a superlative degree." The estate was left subject to the condition "that it was to be erected into a free Barony of Straloch, and on General Reid's only child, Susanna, marrying, her issue to take the name of Reid, and thereby perpetuate the representation of

my much-respected ancestors *ex parte materna*." But alas! for the vanity of human wishes, General Reid's daughter died young and unmarried, the estate was realised, and the Chair of Music in Edinburgh now reaps the benefit. General Small left another estate in Nova Scotia to his cousin, Patrick Small, which was also "to be erected into a free Barony and called Dirnanean in all time coming. Whether or not this was done we are not at present aware. The residue of his estate General Small left to his brother Alexander (then an old man and unmarried); and after him to his eldest sister, Margaret (who married James Rattray of Nether Persie); and Kingseat,—which family is now (1886) represented by Capt. James Rattray, Meigle (late of Dundee, Perth, and London Shipping Company); and to the children of his late brother and sisters—Susan (who married John Robertson of Cray, Glenshee); Jean (who married Colin M'Kenzie of Finnagand, Glenshee); and James (who married Miss M'Donald, daughter of ———.) They had five children, —Margaret, who married Captain — Campbell of Carrie (whose son was Lieut.-General Sir Duncan Campbell, K.C.B.); and Jane who married John M'Donald, father of Angus M'Donald, the Army Agent.

The statement that Alexander II. was married to Marjory Grahame, lawful daughter to M'Homie, laird of Claypots, &c., is not clear. Whether was M'Combie or Grahame father-in-law to Alexander? The Claypots in Glenisla, at this time, belonged to the M'Homies or M'Combies of Fortar and Crandart, previously of Lainchoil or Finegand, Glenshee; and if M'Combie was not father-in-law, the Baron revenging a gentleman of Glenshee named M'Homie, looks as if there was a connection by blood. If Grahame of Fintray was father-in-law, then the Dr Kinloch who attended the 8th Baron's wife was cousin-german to the Baron, the Doctor being grandchild to Grahame of Fintray. He was Dr Kinloch of Kilry, in Glenisla, and Ruthven, and ancestor of the Kinlochs of that Ilk and the Kinlochs of Logie, Kirriemuir.

* * *

Francis Peirson, minister of Kirkmichael in the covenanting era, joined the Protesters in the kirk in opposition to the Resolutioners, and acted with them in forming a separate Presbytery. He was deprived by the Privy Council in 1633, but conformed, and continued preaching in the parish. He was doing so in

1693. His son and successor, John Peirson, was in 1717 deposed for disaffection to the Government, as he had influenced the people to rebellion, prepared them to take up arms against the reigning family, and mounted his horse with that view.—*Scott's Fasti Eccl.*

* * *

It is stated that John, 8th Baron, was married at Mirehouse—read “Wardhouse”—an estate purchased by Invercauld, and where he resided for some time. He bought it from the Leslies, and afterwards sold it to the Gordons of Baldornie, who still retain it and reside on it. It is in the parish of Kennethmont and district of Garioch.

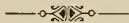
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James, third son of the 8th Baron, the writer of the MS., was buried in Glenmuick Churchyard. His tombstone still remains in good preservation, with the following inscription:—“Here lies the Rev. James Robertson of Glenmuick, who, after a life devoted to the glory of God and the good of mankind, died the 11th July, 1748. ‘Blessed are the dead.’—Rev. xiv. 13.” “Mr Robertson, who was a son of the Baron Ruadh, was the first Presbyterian mini-

ster of Glenmuick. He was ordained in 1699, and in 1704 he made up a list of the Papists in the united parishes, in which he gives many graphic delineations of character."—*Blackhall's Narrative*, xxxi.-iv.



C O R R I G E N D A.



- Page 4 of Preface, 3rd line from bottom: for "poets" read "Scots."
- „ 9, line 3: insert "Sir Sylvester" before "Ratray."
 - „ 10, line 21: after "daughter" insert "Marjory."
 - „ 11, line 9: after "Persey" insert "and Kingseat."
 - „ 11, line 6 of Footnote: before "Ramsay" insert "Sir Alexander."
 - „ 28, lines 19 and 20: for "Mirehouse" insert "Wardhouse."
 - „ 61, line 15: "and Kingseat" should be included in preceding parenthesis.

